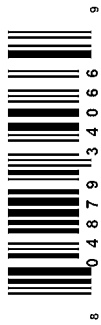


Private ceremony, parade for grads Pages 6-9

Debbie Torres | Superior Sun



A community publication of Copperarea.com



Fire restrictions being implemented in more areas across Arizona

Continued dry conditions and an increase in wildfire activity throughout Arizona have led to Stage 2 fire restrictions being put in place on May 12 by the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).

Fire restrictions vary by agency and jurisdiction. Those that currently affect all areas under the management of these three agencies are: building, maintaining or using a fire, including a campfire or a stove that burns charcoal, coal or wood; smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building; using fireworks; discharging a firearm except while engaged in a lawful hunt pursuant to state, federal or tribal laws and regulations; welding; and the operating of any internal combustion engine. A violation of posted restrictions could result in citations, fines, jail time or reimbursement of the cost to put out the fire and rehabilitate the fire area.

For up-to-date information, contact your local land or fire management agency or fire department before you travel to your chosen destination. You may also learn about current fire restrictions and current fire situations online at: wildlandfire.az.gov.

The importance of worrying about a wildfire starting is more than just worrying about your own legal liability or immediate safety. Human-caused wildfires have made up over half of all the wildfires in Arizona, almost every year with many wildfires starting from vehicles or camping equipment, campfires and burning debris on private property. Taking the additional steps of using spark arresters on small equipment, securing tow chains, checking the condition of tires and brakes, and never pulling a vehicle off the road into dry vegetation will go a long way into making this a happy and safe summer for all.

Prepare, as well, by evaluating your own home. Reduce flammable materials around homes and communities before a fire occurs, by clearing up plant debris through raking, mowing, trimming and weeding, to create a buffer between your home and trees, shrubs and undeveloped spaces. Not only can this space help slow or stop the spread of wildfire, it also provides a safe place for firefighters to defend your home if conditions allow.



When conditions improve, fire restrictions will be reduced until all of the usual allowable activities can be continued.

Copper Corridor EDC hosting networking webinars to help local businesses

The Copper Corridor Economic Development Coalition will be hosting a webinar on Thursday, May 28, at 9 a.m.

and again on Tuesday, June 2, at 4 p.m. The webinar will include networking with businesses across the region along with a seminar from the rural economic development group, "Save Your Town."

The topic of the webinar is "Restarting Local Shopping". You can register for the webinars online at: <https://bit.ly/CCEDCWebinars> may also email the CCEDC for more information on how to register: azccedc@gmail.com.

The Copper Basin Chamber of Commerce, Globe-Miami Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Superior Chamber of Commerce are also assisting with promoting this webinar and their members are encouraged to attend.

The Superior Sun

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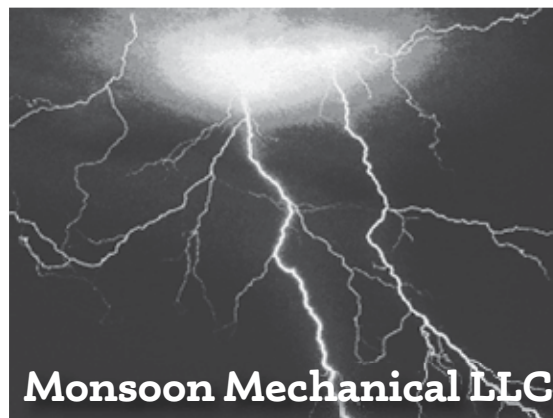
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Telephone (520) 363-5554

Fax (520) 363-9663

"There are numerous countries in the world where the politicians have seized absolute power and muzzled the press. There is no country in the world where the press has seized absolute power and muzzled the politicians"

—David Brinkley



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PRICES GOOD 5/27/20 THROUGH 6/2/20

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Seasoned

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\$2.49/lb

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Hillshire Farm • 3-1 lb. Pkgs.

\$3.99

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\$5.99/lb

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\$1.49

Shop early – supplies limited based on products on hand.

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Town of Superior announces reopening of parks; pool, library to reopen soon

The Town of Superior has announced that all town parks including play structures will reopen on Friday, May 21, 2020. The park play structures have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to opening the parks the play structure have been deep cleaned and decontaminated.

The Town is planning to reopen the swimming pool in early June once new policies can be enacted to ensure that the CDC physical distancing can be followed. Outdoor activities such as swimming, hiking, walking and outdoor

play are highly encouraged by most health authorities and the Town of Superior encourages residents to use these amenities.

The Library will tentatively be reopening on June 15; many improvements have been made to ensure that physical distancing and disinfecting can happen on a regular basis.

The Senior Center will remain closed until it is determined that meals can be served in a congregate setting. Lunches will continue to be delivered to Senior

Citizens signed up for the program.

Public contact and inquires at Town Hall are still being handled by appointment only. Sewer bills can be dropped off at the Town Hall drop box. Appointment for permits and other inquires at town hall can be arranged by calling Town Hall at 520-689-5752

The Town of Superior encourages and recommends that everyone continue to practice physical distancing, wash your hands regularly, avoid touching your face, and wear a mask as often as possible.

Superior Optimist Club announces annual Magma Royale event cancelled for 2020

Due to COVID-19 the Superior Optimist Club announces that the 2020 Magma Royale fundraiser scheduled for Aug. 1, 2020 has been cancelled.

This is the primary fundraiser for the organization which hosts many community-based events such as

Miracle on Main Street and the annual Honor Roll Banquet. In addition to those events the club also donates funds to many community-based projects and supports youth activities throughout Superior.

The event would not be possible to host safely, with the

physical distancing protocols recommended by state and national health officials. The club is led by President, Jessica Castillo, "This was a tough decision, but it was the best decision for our club and our community, we

Continued on page 14



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- Reemployment Assistance

AnswersAboutWork@Rescare.com
1-800-409-5153

For more information visit our website www.ARIZONAATWORK.COM/Pinal

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201 E. Kino (& Catalina)
Mammoth

Carlos Gonzalez
520-487-2219

Domingo: Escuela Dominical 10-10:45 a.m.
Servicio de Alabanza 11 a.m.
Lunes: Servicio de Oracion 6:30 p.m.
Miercoles: Estudio Biblico 6:30 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

San Manuel Ward • 101 S. Giffin Ave.

Bishop Jim Bingham
520-385-4866

Sunday Morning Meetings:
Sacrament 10 a.m.
Scripture Study 11 a.m.

Church of the Good Shepherd

Bottom of School Hill, Kearny

Pastor Jimmy Nelson
520-363-7283

www.thegoodshepherd.pbworks.com

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

UMC in cooperation with the Episcopal Church & the
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
We stand in awe of God and of one another

Family Life Christian Center

56 Kellner Ave., Superior
"When Life Hurts – Only God Heals"
Pastors Dennis & Sandy VanGorp
520-689-2202

Sunday Prayer 9:45 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

2nd Sunday Miracle Service 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6 p.m.

Everyone is Welcome • Assembly of God

First Baptist Church

103 W. Galiuro, Mammoth

Pastor Joe Ventimiglia
520-405-0510

Sunday School – 9 a.m.
Sunday Worship – 10 a.m.
Prayer Meeting Wed. – 5:30 p.m.
Movie Night Last Friday of the Month – 7 p.m.
"The Church on the Hill"

First Baptist Church

1st & Nichols, San Manuel

Pastor Kevin Duncan
385-4655

Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Discipleship 5 p.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.

Full Gospel Church of God

301 E. Webb Dr., San Manuel

Pastors Michael & Bea Lucero Sr.
520-385-1250 • 520-385-5017

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
No Evening Service
Wednesday 6 p.m.
Teen Group 3rd Friday of every month at 6 p.m.

Infant Jesus of Prague Catholic Church

501 Victoria Circle, Kearny

Rev. Fr. George Kunnel (Pastor)
520-363-7205

Daily Masses Tues. 5:30 p.m.; Thurs. 8:30 a.m.
Saturday Vigil 6 p.m.; Sunday Mass 9 a.m.
Sunday Religious Ed for Children, Youth
Ministry & Jr. High Youth Groups 10:15 a.m.

Kearny Church of Christ

103 Hammond Dr., Kearny

Minister George Randall
520-363-7711

Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Evening Worship 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

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Lighthouse Assembly of God

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Pastor David Wade
520-356-6718

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Wednesday Family Night 7 p.m.

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Living Word Chapel Copper Corridor

Love God, Love People

Pastor James Ruiz
520-896-2771

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402 Danbury Rd., Kearny
www.lwcoracle.org
Find us on Facebook @
LWC Kearny

Living Word Chapel- Oracle

Casual, Relevant, Contemporary

Pastor James Ruiz
520-896-2771

Join us at 8:45 or 10:30 a.m.
3941 W. Hwy. 77

www.lwcoracle.org
Find us on Facebook @ LWC Oracle

Oracle Assembly of God

1145 Robles Rd.
Oracle

Pastor Nathan Hogan

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Evening Service 6 p.m.
Wednesday Evening 6 p.m.

Oracle Church of Christ

2425 El Paseo
Oracle

Richard Ferris
520-818-6554

Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

Oracle Seventh-Day Adventist Church

2150 Hwy 77
Oracle

Pastor Michael Soto

Saturday Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.
Saturday Worship Service 11 a.m.

Oracle Union Church

705 E. American Ave.
Oracle

Pastor Dr. Ed Nelson
520-784-1868

Sunday Bible Study 9 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 11 a.m.
Thursday Prayer Time 11 a.m. to Noon

Pathway of Hope Foursquare Church

3270 E. Armstrong Lane
Catalina

Pastor Karen Kelly
520-344-4417

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
A House of Prayer, Healing & Salvation
www.pathwayofhope.net
pastorkaren@pathwayofhope.net

Presbyterian Church of Superior

100 Magma Ave., Superior

520-689-2631

Worship Service Sunday: 10 a.m.
All are welcome.

**Anonymous prayer box located at
Save Money Market. We will pray for you!**

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

11 Church Ave., Superior

Fr. Samuel Jandeh
520-689-2250

Weekday Mass Tues.-Fri. 8 a.m.
Saturday 5 p.m. • Sunday 9 & 11 a.m.
Confession: Sat. 4-4:45 p.m. or by req.
www.stfrancissuperior.org

San Pedro Valley Baptist Church

Dudleyville Road, Dudleyville

Pastor Anthony DaCunha
520-357-7353

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Evening Service 6 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Superior Harvest Church

Hill St. & Stone Ave., Superior

Pastor Albert M. Rodriguez
480-354-4499 H
480-329-3647 C

Sunday Morning Service 10 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 5 p.m.

Victory in Jesus

Vista United Methodist Church - San Manuel

Fred Baum, Pastor
520-825-1985

(Info & Prayer Requests)

ONLINE SERVICES
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www.vistaumc.org or Facebook/Vista UMC
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listing, please call
520-363-5554 or 520-385-2266.

Superior graduates celebrate milestone with



Superior High School Class of 2020.

Debbie Torres | Sun

Congratulations Graduates
from
**Copper Corridor
Justice Court**
Judges Discher, Brown & Kent
& Staff Mary, Ginger, Veronica, Darena,
Roxanne, Martha & Carolina



Parents were social distancing during the private graduation ceremony.

Debbie Torres | Sun

private ceremony, parade and fireworks



Here come the graduates.

Debbie Torres | Sun

Marlee Estatico receives Mike McKee scholarship



Mrs. Patricia Talley-Garcia speaks to the graduates during the private commencement ceremony last week.

Debbie Torres | Sun



Deb McKee presents the Mike McKee Memorial Scholarship to Marlee Estatico.

Superior High School graduate Marlee Estatico was awarded the \$3,000 Mike McKee Memorial Scholarship. Marlee is the class of 2020 Salutatorian and will be attending Pima Medical Institute to become a Certified Nursing Assistant.

The Mike McKee Memorial Scholarship committee was established the summer of 2019 with a goal to honor Mike's memory with a trade school scholarship funded by a car show and donations. The initial core committee, consisting of Doug and Jacque Fair, Bruce Wittig, Manny Guzman, Matt Mashaw and Deb McKee were joined by many other family members and friends to plan the car show now scheduled for Nov. 7, 2020.

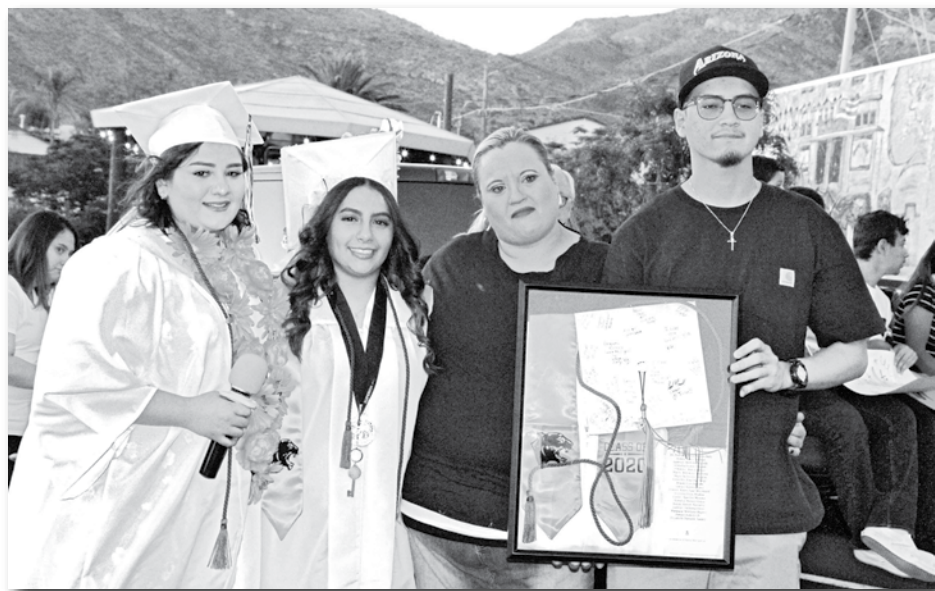
The committee thanks everyone who pitched in to help make this scholarship happen. Family and friends and local merchants donated to the scholarship fund. Thank you all.

Superior graduates celebrate milestone with



Listening to the speakers during the 2020 Superior High School commencement.

Debbie Torres | Sun



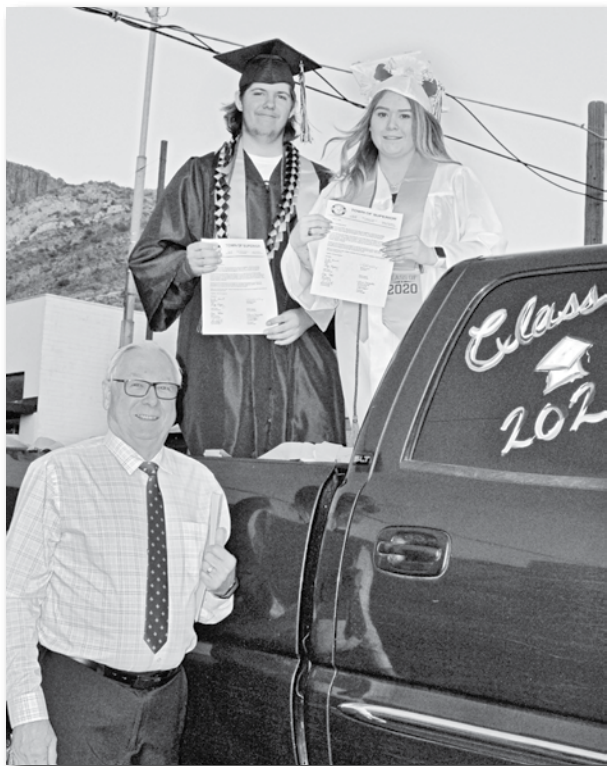
private ceremony, parade and fireworks



Queenie Hing speaks at the graduation ceremony.
Debbie Torres | Sun

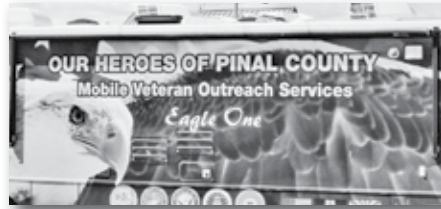


Marlee Estatico, left, was honored as this year's Salutatorian. Queenie Hing, right, took the top spot as Valedictorian.
Debbie Torres | Sun



COPPER CORRIDOR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Please note: many events have been canceled or postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please check with organizations when planning to attend events listed.



Eagle One Veteran Outreach

Visit Eagle One Veteran Outreach Center online at hohp4heroes.org. Eagle One provides veterans a place to learn about and apply for all services available to them.

Ray Bearcats PTO

The Ray Bearcats Parent-Teacher Organization is always looking for volunteers for our organization! Contact Ray Bearcats PTO through email at raybearcatspto@gmail.com, or by phone at 520-366-4461. Let's make this next school year one to remember for our Bearcats! Go Bearcats!

Wildfire Safety

Much of the southwest is considered a high-hazard fire environment. Within this hazardous environment are individual homes, and entire communities ill-prepared to survive an intense wildfire. It is not a question of "if" a wildfire will occur, but when. The odds of losing human life and property are growing. The Town of Kearny would like to protect you and the community from the dangers of wildfires. The Fire Chief is very concerned about this upcoming fire season. Even though we have received more rain than usual, it has caused more weeds. Once the rain stops, the weeds will dry out and this will make for a dangerous fire season. Please clear weeds, dry grass, dry shrubs or dead trees surrounding your property. Thank you for your support.

San Manuel VFW Meetings Canceled

Due to COVID-19, all VFW Post 2767 (San Manuel) meetings are canceled. They will resume when the crisis has passed.

Tri-Community Food Bank is Open

The Tri-Community Food Bank located at 108 Redwood Drive in Mammoth continues to be in business. We are observing social distancing. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. To be eligible you must show proof of address that you live near or in Mammoth, San Manuel and Oracle and have an income within the federal poverty guidelines. The thrift shop is closed and is not accepting donations. Call 520-487-2010 for more information.

Family First Offices Closed Due to COVID-19

Family First has changed the way they do business, as all of us in America have had to do lately! They have closed their offices for a two-week period, staying closed through March 30. While they hope to re-open on March 31, they will evaluate at that time steps needed. They are available to all their regular clients as well as anyone in the community as needed by a phone call. The phone number for Oracle is 520-896-9545; Winkelman 520-664-5795.

MAY

18 Mammoth Swimming Pool Open

The Town of Mammoth Swimming Pool will open for the season on Monday, May 18, 2020. Admission is \$3. Punch cards can be purchased for significant savings at the Pool. We will be following the CDC/AZ Health Department Guidance on Pools and have a new schedule along with new rules and policies for 2020. Please see the Mammoth Pool Facebook page for schedule updates and the latest news. Please note that we will NOT have Free Public Swim on Memorial Day due to the current restrictions on crowd size.

28, 29 Superior Food Bank

The Superior Food Bank will be distributing food boxes on Thursday and Friday, May 28 and 29 at 3 p.m., in a drive-through method. Please line up from the north along Lobb. The end will extend to the west along Porphyry. Traffic control officers will be on duty. Thank you to our volunteers. This style of distribution takes a few more people to make it work smoothly, so if you are available to help, thank you! You may call 689-2202 for information.

JUNE



9 Free Swimming Lessons at the Mammoth Pool

The Town of Mammoth, the Sea Lions Swim Team, and SaddleBrooke Community Outreach are once again providing FREE swim lessons at the Mammoth Pool this summer. The free swim lessons are scheduled to start on June 9, 2020 and go through July 2, 2020. Classes will be held Tuesday - Thursday from 10-11 a.m. You must register in advance - class size may be limited. Registration forms are available at the Mammoth Pool, the Town of Mammoth website, and the Sea Lions Swim Team website (sealionsswimteam.com). Please contact Wendy Gort at 896-2190 for more information.

JULY

4 Fourth of July Changes at SaddleBrooke

The SaddleBrooke Fourth of July fireworks have been canceled.

Summer Hours for Hayden

The Town of Hayden Public Works Department has begun its summer hours. The hours are from 6 a.m. - 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please plan on having garbage available for pick up one hour earlier.

BYOM: Bring Your Own Masks

Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center is asking everyone to bring their own mask when you come to the hospital. Thank you.

Town of Kearny Announces RAD Change of Service

The Town of Kearny and RAD have announced a change of service for residential and commercial customers. Effective April 15 your new weekly trash and recycling day moving forward is Wednesday. Bulk services changed on March 1 to the second Thursday of each month and may be scheduled before noon on the day prior to your area pick-up date. Commercial services are every Wednesday, starting April 15. Please place both garbage and recycling carts out the night prior or by 6 a.m. on your service day. Allow 3 feet between each cart and 10 feet away from cars, mailboxes, landscape or other items that may interfere with service and 2 feet away from the building. Face cart so lid opens toward the street (handles toward building). Do not overfill or place additional garbage on top. Lids must be fully closed. This reduces airborne trash on windy days. Questions? Call Customer Service at 480-983-9100.

ON THE AGENDA

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Join us on the third Wednesday of each month for lunch and informative meeting at the chamber office, 165 W. Main St. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 520-689-0200. There is a fee for lunch.

SUPERIOR TOWN COUNCIL: The Superior Town Council meets the second Thursday at 7 p.m. at the old Roosevelt School Auditorium.

SUPERIOR OPTIMIST CLUB: The Superior Optimist Club meets the first and third Tuesdays at Edwardo's Pizza at 6:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to join the club can contact JoAnn Besich at 520-827-0592.

SUPERIOR SENIOR CENTER: The Superior Senior Center, 360 W. Main St., invites seniors to join the center and enjoy a nice meal and great company. Meals are \$2 for adults 60 and over. Under 55 is \$4. Bingo is every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. A pastry bingo is held on the last Thursday of the month beginning at 10 a.m. All are welcome. Need a ride to the center or more information? Call 689-5182.

SUPERIOR ROTARY CLUB: The Superior Rotary Club is the oldest service club in Superior that is still in service today. If you are interested in becoming a Rotarian, please call the school district for the next meeting date, 689-3000.

SUPERIOR SCHOOL BOARD: Regular meetings of the Superior School District Governing Board are held at 6 p.m. in the Auditorium, at Kennedy Elementary School, 1500 Sunset Drive in Superior, usually on the first Wednesday of each month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JFK Elementary Preschool

Kennedy Elementary Preschool is accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year. Children must be 4 years of age by Sept. 1, 2020 and parents/guardians will need to provide the child's original birth certificate, immunization records, and proof of residency. Applications are available at JFK Elementary School, 1500 Panther Drive., Superior. For more information please call 520.689.3000x3049.

Play Bingo in Miami

In 2020, Bingo at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church on Sullivan St. in Miami will be held on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Those over age 18 are welcome to join in, starting at 6 p.m., with doors opening at 5 p.m. There will be three Early Bird games and then the rest of a 21 game pack. Packs are \$19 per player. There will be a snack bar. If you would like more information about CDA or Bingo, please contact Mary Stemm, Regent via email atjmmstemm@cableone.net.

Commit to Walking With God

In Deuteronomy 31:6 we read, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you alone nor forsake you." In the confusion around us, we are not to retreat, but move closer to God.

As a result, we will become as oaks of righteousness – God's gift to others. As we display His Holy splendor, we will begin to rebuild what has been ruined and restore what has been devastated. Confusion will retreat as God's faithful army is obedient to His declared will.

God is calling His Church to rise up and fulfill their destiny. Edmund Burke once said, "the only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." We have a job to do – to carry out God's plans and purposes in our community.

The Christians must act as a true family; caring, sharing and showing love as we reach out to help others. Over time, people



PASTOR'S CORNER

By Dennis Van Gorp
Family Life Christian Center

have always endured trauma and hard times. To be successful, we must commit to and walk with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Have a service man or woman you'd like us to recognize? We are proud to support our military and will publish the information at no charge. Email information to cbnsun@minersunbasin.com

Public Notice

COPPER CORRIDOR JUSTICE COURT COUNTY OF PINAL, STATE OF ARIZONA 60 N. MAIN STREET SUPERIOR, AZ 85173 TLF LLC, Plaintiff, vs. ANISHA NEAL, Defendant. Case No. CV2019-000389 CIVIL SUMMONS THE STATE OF ARIZONA TO: Anisha Neal 604 W Hill St Superior, AZ 85173 1. You are summoned to respond to this Complaint by filing an answer with this court and paying the court's required fee. If you cannot afford to pay the required fee, you can request the court to waive or to defer the fee. 2. If you were served with this summons in the State of Arizona, the court must receive your answer to the complaint within twenty (20) calendar days from the date you were served. If you were served outside the State of Arizona, the court must receive your answer to the complaint within thirty (30) days from the date of service. If the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, you will have until the next working day to file your answer. When calculating time, do not count the day you were served with the summons. 3. This court is located at 60 N. MAIN STREET SUPERIOR, AZ 85173 4. Your answer must be in writing. (a) You may obtain an answer form from the court listed above, or on the Self-Service Center of the Arizona Judicial Branch website at: <http://www.azcourts.gov/> under the "Public Services" tab. (b) You may visit <http://222.azturbocourt.gov/> to prepare your answer electronically; this requires payment of an additional fee. (c) You may also prepare your answer on a plain sheet of paper, but, your answer must include the case number, the court location and the names of the parties. 5. You must provide a copy of your answer to the plaintiff(s) or to the plaintiff's attorney. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE COURT WITHIN THE TIME INDICATED ABOVE, A DEFAULT JUDGEMENT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU, AS REQUESTED IN THE PLAINTIFF(S) COMPLAINT. Signed and Sealed this 22nd day of November, 2019. /s/ Nancy Discher Justice of the Peace SUN Legal 5/13/20, 5/20/20, 5/27/20, 6/3/20

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20. Help Wanted**TOWN OF SUPERIOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Summer Lifeguards –
Seasonal Position
Pay Scale: \$12 per hour

Opening Date: February 2020
Closing Date: Open Until Filled

General Responsibilities:
Monitors activities at a Town-operated swimming pool. Must be at least 16 years of age and possess or have the ability to obtain a valid American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Certificate, American Red Cross First Aid and CPR Certifications and pass a pre-employment drug screen.

Full Job Description available at the Superior Town Hall Front Desk, 199 N. Lobb Ave., Superior, AZ 85173. Town Hall is open Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Equal Opportunity Employer

25. Instruction

TRAIN ONLINE TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 866-459-5480. (M-F 8am-6pm ET) (AZCAN)

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44. Yard Sales

SMSS (520-385-4991) will sell the contents of unit 8E 5/28/20 at 9 a.m., in consideration of back rent. Sale subject to cancellation.

45. Misc.

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- **604 4th Ave.** 3 bdrm 1 bath. Open Livingroom and kitchen area. Remodeled kitchen and bath. Double driveway. Block wall with drive-thru gate. Block workshop. Gorgeous views. \$95,000
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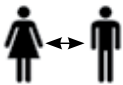
As we all unite to protect ourselves, our families, and our neighbors from the ravages of the coronavirus, we are committed to adhering to the guidances from federal and state government, and ask that our visitors and patrons do the same:



If you are sick, stay at home.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



Avoid close contact by keeping a distance of at least 6 feet from those around you.



Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.



Cover coughs and sneezes.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.

Memorial Day tribute to a Pinal County Vietnam War hero

By **John Hernandez**
San Manuel Miner

Monday, May 25, was celebrated as Memorial Day: the day to remember those men and women that gave their lives in America's wars. Small town Americans have always answered the call to fight for their country whether they enlisted or were drafted. This was true during the Vietnam War. Pinal County made up of many small towns had at least 37 men killed in Vietnam. Not all of those soldiers were American citizens, but believed in America enough to sacrifice their life for their adopted country. Immigrants have fought and died for this country since the Revolutionary War.

One such immigrant was José Francisco Jimenez. José was born in Mexico City, Mexico on March 20, 1946. His early years were spent in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico. In 1957, after his father's death, he joined his mother, Mrs. Basilia Jimenez, in Red Rock, Arizona. He graduated from Red Rock Elementary School in 1964 and attended Santa Cruz Valley Union High School in Eloy. In High School he was active in the Future Farmers of America and was the FFA President his senior year. He also worked as a cowboy at La Osa Ranch near Red Rock. José graduated from high school in June 1968 and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in August.

Following basic training and advanced infantry training, José was ordered to the Republic of South Vietnam in February 1969. Prior to leaving for Vietnam, he returned to Red Rock to visit his family. They traveled to Mexico City and his hometown of Morelia. While in Mexico City, he visited the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe to pray to the Virgin. In Vietnam he was assigned as a guide and fire team leader with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on June 16, 1969.

On Aug. 28, 1969, in Quang Nam Province, south of Danang, José's unit came under heavy fire by North Vietnamese soldiers concealed in well camouflaged emplacements. Lance Corporal Jimenez acted quickly and shouting encouragement to his fellow marines, took the initiative attacking the emplaced enemy. During his actions, he knocked out a heavy machine gun emplacement then attacked a trench where enemy soldiers were laying down fire on his unit, killing five North Vietnamese. As he rushed towards another emplacement, he was fatally shot in the head. For his actions that day he was nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor.

His mother had his remains sent to Morelia, Mexico where he was buried. On Aug. 6, 1970, José was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor at a ceremony in Washington D.C. President Richard Nixon presented the medal to Jose's mother who attended the presentation along with her nephew J. Natividad Acosta and Jose's sister Maria del Pilar. Arizona Senators Paul Fannin and Barry Goldwater also attended the ceremony as well as the Mexican Consul who acted as translator for Jose's mother.

Jose's cousin, Natividad, told the press that Jose volunteered because he felt he owed a debt to this country. "He didn't have to join the Marines or fight for the United States," Natividad said. "He could have gone back to Mexico, but he said he owed this country a great obligation for the way he and his mother had been received and helped here. I think that is why he volunteered and died in Vietnam. This was not his country, but he owed it a debt and he paid it."

Note: In 2017, at the request of his sister and with the help of his fellow Marines and others who raised funds and helped make arrangements, José Francisco Jimenez was buried with full military honors next to his mother's grave in Glendale, Arizona.